



Oral presentation: O11

Diversity, nesting habits and socioecology of the ant genus *Polyrhachis* F. Smith in the lowland vegetation of Kaeng Krachan National Park, Thailand

Dr. Nawee Noon-anant

Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Prince of Songkla University, Songkhla, Thailand

Abstract

The ant genus *Polyrhachis* F. Smith is one of the most species rich ant taxa in the lower vegetation of Thailand's lowland forest peninsular. Records of *Polyrhachis* in Kaeng Krachan National Park, an area located near the zoogeographical transition between the Indo-Chinese subregion, Indo-Burma, Sundaic subregion, or Sundaland of Southeast Asia are scarce. A 10-month investigation from August 2015 to May 2016 is being conducted at the lower vegetation of the five main nature trails by hand collection and colony sampling methods. A preliminary investigation conducted at Kaeng Krachan National Park before August 2015, resulted 25 species belonging to 6 subgenera of the genus. The collection is currently deposited at the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Prince of Songkla University. The subgenus *Myrmhopla* had the highest number of species (10), followed by *Myrma* (7); *Cyrtomyrma* and *Myrmatopa* were represented by three species each, while *Campomyrma* and *Polyrhachis* were represented by one species each. The location of the most nests was the arboreal stratum, with high degrees of polydomy and polygyny. Carton was the most prevalent form of the nest material.

Key words: Carton nest material, Formicidae, nesting habits, subgenera of *Polyrhachis*, socio-ecology